

**World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference
and Assembly
"Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress"
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**Report by IFLA Grantee 2010
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The World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly were held in Gothenburg Convention Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden from 9th -15th August 2010. As a lecturer and PhD student in the field of Library and Information Science as well as active member of Sri Lanka Library Association it is my great honour to first join in this big family and I really gained lot during this conference. It is totally successful and wonderful conference.

At the 76th IFLA general conference I met senior leaders and other grantees from various countries and it was a great opportunity to me learn, share information and experiences and discuss LIS today and future.

From the beginning to end the conference was fully scheduled. First day (9th August) I have attended the pre-congress Satellite meeting on “The Global Librarian” in Boras, Sweden. All grantees stayed at the First Hotel Grand and I am very much happy with all facilities. The first day program, it’s an important event. During that day I had chance to hear various kind of presentation and had opportunity to understand about various programmes in IFLA especially about “New Professionals Group”, as well as the presentation on “Global Librarian” and “Importance of having IFLA membership” was helped to open my mind and encouraged me to work for the IFLA as a volunteer. That day was again unforgettable day in my life because I met 35 grantees and started our network. Further I have added my experience to “IFLA Experience 2010”. After the pre-congress we came back from Boras to Gothenburg as a group and IFLA has provided the transport facility for all of us. It was more enjoyable. In Gothenburg we all grantees stayed at IHM Fazer Hotel which is near to the conference hall.

The opening session was very interesting with important speeches and music. As a first timer to IFLA I have participated newcomers session and gained important details about IFLA and that session leads us to follow the correct path and encouraged us to do something for IFLA, as well as for library profession in our country. Further I have identified new technology which is now using in the library field through IFLA exhibition. During the conference days I had chance to hear different keynote speeches, presentations, working group presentations so on. We had hot discussions and learned more. The environment in IFLA is so free and active that we can exchange our ideas open and benefit much from it.

We met many friends all over the world and had a good knowledge of their Library profession and status of libraries in their countries, their tradition and their culture by free communication and meaningful team building.

The IFLA Night Spot, Dancing Night and IFLA Asia and Oceania dinner party with Emerald group was really interesting. We dressed in our traditional clothes, sang and danced, having a good opportunity to show our different cultures. Most of time we visited places had our dinner in difference natural places in Gothenburg.

Another important activity was Asia and Oceania session, 8.30-10.30, 15th August. In that session I have presented my paper on “**Value of Social Networking in Libraries and Information Organizations in Asia and Oceania**”. It was well accepted by audience and I had opportunity to meet committee members in that section as well as subject interest group.

I had very nice IFLA T shirts, bag, and IFLA badge, finally certificate. It creates good memory of IFLA conference 2010.

Actually it is a fantastic conference and I believe every participant have the same idea as me.

I am very happy and lucky to participate in the IFLA conference 2010. It was a wonderful experience for me. And I wish to thank to IFLA 2010 organizers and workers under the great leadership of IFLA and all participants in the conference. And also I would like to thank Prof. Gary Gorman, Dr. Dan Dorner, who encouraged me to participate IFLA 2010. My big thanks are again goes to conference committee for offering me a full sponsorship. Otherwise I couldn't attend the conference and lost the chance due to limited funding resources of my country. I believed full sponsorship was a big hand to me to attend the conference and share knowledge and experience. (See nice memories in IFLA 2010)

I wish to share my all experiences which I gained from IFLA 2010 to further advancement of librarianship of my country.

Hope to meet you all in PUERTO RICO in 2011.



